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INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 2839
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0660
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0536
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 1112
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RHMFIUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 001073

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SENSITIVE

STATE FOR SCA/CEN
PASS TO USTDA DAN STEIN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EPET](#) [RS](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: NARYSHKIN VISIT PROBABLY FOCUSED ON
PIPELINES AND GAS PRICE

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for public Internet.

12. (U) According to press reports, during an October 3 meeting in Ashgabat, Sergei Naryshkin, Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Co-Chairman of the Turkmenistan-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Cooperation Commission, told Turkmenistan's President Berdimuhamedov that experts from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia are completing drafts of the relevant intergovernmental agreements on the Caspian littoral and Central Asia-Center gas pipelines. Naryshkin also reportedly pointed out Russia's interest in giving the bilateral relations a "sustainable dynamism." The next meeting of experts of the four countries will be held in Ashgabat in several days. (NOTE: The four countries agreed in May that documents on conducting appropriate feasibility studies would be completed by September 1. END NOTE.)

13. (SBU) COMMENT: Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers/Foreign Minister Rashit Meredov has gone on record telling the Charge that the four countries in May agreed only to a framework agreement which carried no immediate obligations. As recently as September 26, President Berdimuhamedov was quoted as saying that "I would not want to hide the fact that negotiations on gas prices in the new project as well as in our existing contracts are tense." Russian mass media, which has made no secret of Russian concern over Turkmenistan's new commitment to provide gas to China, has been reporting Turkmenistan may raise the price for its natural gas to Russia from \$100 to \$150 per thousand cubic meters. Naryshkin's visit may have been an attempt to try to herd Turkmenistan back into the Kremlin fold. END COMMENT.

HOAGLAND